



KNOX CITY
SOCCER CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1951

2003 ANNUAL

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hi Guys!

Welcome to Knox City Soccer Club's new website!

I would like to thank Damian, Conor and Benton for the work they have put into getting this new website going, but of course it depends on everyone to make it a success by supplying us with as much material as possible.

Well, we are upon a new season again after another successful season last year. We finished fourth just in case you had forgotten and hopefully we repeat this or go a few steps better depending on course on injuries and SEND Offs!

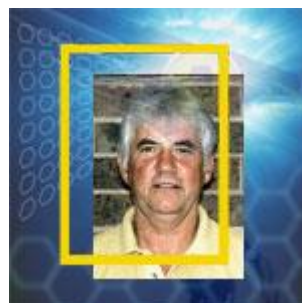
I would also like to welcome back all our supporters for the new season and a reminder that for only \$60 you can become a Knox City Soccer Club member, which entitles you to free entry to all our home games. Also do not forget Thursday nights for all you supporters – If you would like to come and watch the boys train and after that come into the clubrooms to have a chat and a beer. You are definitely most welcome!

I would also like to appeal to anyone who has a few hours to spare to give us a hand in the bar or canteen on home games – what about it folks?

Furthermore, I would like to thank our sponsors because without them our Club would not survive, so whenever you can, please support our sponsors (which are located on the website).

I hope we have an enjoyable and successful seasons, but most of all, ENJOY YOUR SOCCER!

Cor Teeuw
Senior Club President



PRESIDENT
Cor Teeuw

SENIOR TEAM – 2003



Anthony Edgar - Nick Veljovic - Peter Veljovic - Iain Callaghan - Matt Orr

Steve Bouios - Matt Verniers - Kristian Hale - Marty O'Hare - Brian Roper - Brett Lavale -
Alan Morley - Sam Treadwell

Cor Teeuw [President] - Ivo Maderia - Andrew Asimakidis - Val Philippe - Nick Agetzis -
Matt Broxham - Cammeron Jones - Adam Doughty - Martin Broxham [Secretary]

Roy Lawton [GK.Coach] - Charlie Vladimirov [Ass.Coach] - Andy Humble
[HeadCoach] - Damian Evertts [V.Capt] - Craig Kerr [Capt] -
Andy Greenwood {Ass. Coach} - Angus Bell {Physio} - Bruce Darnell [V.President]

RESERVE TEAM – 2003



Sam Treadwell – Matt Broxham – Ricky Maderia – Ben Markovic – Brian Roper –
Saleem Nasser – Marco Diaz – Adam Doughty – Luke Ventieri – Adam Ventieri –
Charlie Vladimirov [Reserve Coach]

Gary Mousaco – Liam Swiane – Yashar Alinejad – Will Stolky

ABSENT – Matt Orr – Anthony Grecco – Tristian White – Peter Veljovic – Steve Bouios –
Romano Genesi – Nick Agetzis

SENIOR SQUAD LIST – 2003

First team appearances only.

Squad NO.	Name	Position	Joined from	Year Joined	CAPS 2003	CAPS Total	Goals 2003	Goals Total
1	Val Philippe	G.K	Springvale S.C.	2003	20	20	0	0
2	Iain Callaghan	DEF	Fitzroy S.C.	2003	15	15	0	0
3	Anthony Edgar	DEF	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	21	121	6	19
4	Craig Kerr	MID	Mooroolbark S.C	1998	21	112	3	13
5	Dame Everetts	DEF	Preston S.C.	2000	18	48	0	2
6	Nick Ageziz	DEF	Oakleigh S.C.	2003	2	2	0	0
7	Ivo Maderia	MID	Endeavour S.C.	2002	22	33	3	3
8	Andy Asimakidis	MID	Nunawading S.C	2003	22	22	3	3
9	Brett Lavale	MID	Clayton S.C.	2003	18	38	2	5
10	Marty O'Hare	MID	Ringwood S.C.	1999	22	80	1	18
11	Brian Roper	MID	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	8	47	0	3
12	Cameron Jones	FOR	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	19	59	11	19
13	Luke Ventieri	FOR	Frank. Strikers	2003	0	0	0	0
14	Romano Ginesi	MID	Bulleen S.C.	2003	0	0	0	0
15	Mat Verniers	DEF	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	17	26	0	0
16	Yashar Alinejad	DEF	Nunawading S.C	2003	0	0	0	0
17	Kristian Hale	MID	England	2003	14	14	0	0
18	Nick Veljovic	FOR	Stonington S.C.	2002	22	42	13	17
19	Steve Bouios	MID	Bulleen S.C.	2003	0	0	0	0
20	Sam Treadwell	FOR	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	3	7	0	0
21	Peter Veljovic	FOR	Stonington S.C.	2002	3	14	0	1
22	Tristian White	DEF	Boronia S.C.	2002	0	0	0	0
23	Marco Diaz	MID	Ringwood S.C.	2003	0	0	0	0
24	Anthony Grecco	DEF	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	0	0	0	0
25	Matt Orr	MID	Ringwood S.C.	2002	3	3	0	0
26	Adam Ventieri	MID	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	0	0	0	0
27	Gary Mousaco	MID	Glen Waverley	2003	0	0	0	0
28	Adam Doughty	FOR	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	11	15	1	1
29	Will Stolky	MID	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	0	0	0	0
30	Liam Swaine	MID		2003	0	0	0	0
31	Saleem Nasser	MID	Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	0	0	0	0
32	Ricky Madera	DEF	Endeavour S.C.	2002	0	0	0	0
RGK1	Matt Broxham		Clayton S.C.	2003	2	2	0	0
RGK2	Ben Markovic		Knox S.C.	Ex Jun.	0	0	0	0
H.C	Andy Humble		Retired 2002		0	118	0	45
A.C	Andy Greenwood		Retired 2002		0	71	0	14
R.C	Charlie Vladimirov							
G.K.C	Roy Lawton							
PHYSIO	Augus Bell							

COACHING STAFF – 2003



SENIOR COACH

Andy Humble



ASSISTANT COACH

Andy Greenwood



Reserve Coach

Charlie Vladimirov



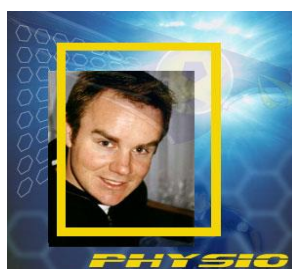
GOAL KEEPER COACH

Roy Lawton



TEAM MANAGER

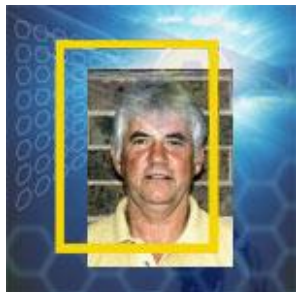
Bruce Darnell



PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Angus Bell

COMMITTEE – 2003



PRESIDENT
Cor Teeuw



SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
Bruce Darnell



SENIOR TREASURER
Chas Collison



SENIOR SECRETARY
Martin Broxham

Junior Vice President –
Junior Treasurer –
Junior Secretary –

Michael Devlin
Paul Stevens
Tracey G'Stein

KNOX CITY SOCCER CLUB DIRECTORS -

Hank Gibcus
Norm Edgar
Bruce Darnell

PRESEASON WRAP

- BY A.HUMBLE

With the season almost upon us, it's a good time to reflect on the happenings of the senior squad so far this pre-season. As usual we started the pre season in mid December and the turn out was excellent, in comparison to last year where we had many key players missing. As a result we have done a solid and strong pre season and more importantly it's been across the board with all players in good shape with the gap between our fittest and least fit being minimal. As a result we have progressed through the different stages of pre season without any major injury worries.

We have lost a few players from last year's squad. Andy Greenwood has decided to hang up the boots and I would personally like to thank Andy for the 4 years of service he has given to Knox City during my coaching stint, and also thank him as a valued teammate in the many years we played together, including two championships at Doncaster Rovers and Knox City, I know the name Greenwood on our team sheet would make some opposition players think twice about wanting to mix it, you just wouldn't do that with Greeny, unless you were well insured!!

Colin Blackley has called it a day, although may pull the gloves on again elsewhere. Colin has been an excellent keeper for the club and his attitude and humour will be well missed. All the best Colin. Stephen Milne is also away at the moment and will miss this season. Stephen is currently on a working holiday in London. I'm sure Stephen will be back with us next season, but we all miss his influences on the squad, good bad or indifferent!

Gabby Alonzo was supposed to hang up the boots, and did come back to train briefly with us before deciding to join Seaford. All the best Gabby, I'm sure you'll do a great job for Seaford and you'll be closer to the surf!!! And finally Chris Papa has decided to move on also. It's been tough for Papa recently and work commitments have finally taken their toll, Papa will be missed, a great attitude and a great sense of humour are always good for the dressing room. All the best Papa.

Many new faces have appeared this pre season and the ones that have so far signed are: Brett Lavell, Andrew Asimikidis, Iain Callaghan, Val Phillippe and Nick Agetzis. Brett is a Knox player from the past and someone that I have confidence in giving us good options in the midfield. Brett was signed from Clayton. Andrew is another midfielder, signed from Nunawading. We had looked at Andrew last season, but decided we had too many midfielders at the club, so I was happy that Andrew accepted our approach this season. Iain is a strong defender who has played the last few seasons in the Premier League, starting a number of first team games at Essendon, Preston and Fitzroy. With first team experience in the First Division Iain should develop into a fine defender.

Val Phillippe is a keeper signed from Springvale City. We saw Val in action a few years back and I've kept tabs on him for some time now. With Colin leaving it was a great opportunity to try and get Val down. I really believe that Val has a great future in the game and I was extremely happy to get him signed up. Lastly Nick Agetzis comes to us from Oakleigh. Nick is a solid young defender, a bit quiet still, but a valuable addition to the squad. I'd like to wish all the new players the very best for the coming season, and thank the players that have left us for their service in the past and for helping get Knox City Soccer Club where it is today.

On the coaching front, we started the season as we finished last season. Franz Weimper being the assistant coach, Charlie Vlad being assistant and reserve team coach, and Roy Lawton as the goalkeeper coach. Unfortunately for Knox City, Franz decided to take the challenge of working with Gary Cole at Altona Magic and has moved on to the Premier League. All the best Franz, we all hope this stint will bear more fruit than the last one with Essendon.

To replace Franz, Andy Greenwood has accepted the position of assistant coach. I was over the moon when Andy accepted the challenge, as he knows the culture of the club and what we try to achieve as a team. Andy also has the full respect of all the players already, which made the move all the more appealing. Already Andy has begun to impress his style on the players with pleasing results. All the best Greeny. Charlie and Roy remain in their roles as reserve team coach and goalkeeper coach respectively.

On the playing front things have progressed as they normally do for our pre season form. We won, what was, with respect to all teams involved, arguably, one of the weakest groups in the State League Cup to progress through to round two. We played Richmond and lost 2-1 in a game that saw us never really "get going", albeit after playing most of the match with 10 men. So true to form we aren't playing to our best just yet. I'm sure come the first game we will be well and truly ready and as is always the case, we need to get off to a good start and get points on the board early.

Obviously last season was a great first up season back in division one and this year we need to at least match our position from last year. A big ask considering the changes that have occurred within the league itself with FIVE new teams involved this year.

All the early talk appears to be with Heidelberg's attempt to go straight back up to the Premier League. I think they may find it difficult at times this year, mainly due to the fact that they will play many Greek derbies, and as is usually the case, form and league positions go out of the window when a derby is played. Either way it will be a long hard season and I'm certainly looking forward to the challenge, as I know my players are.



SENIOR COACH
Andy Humble

ROUND 1

KNOX CITY 0 vs FITZROY 2

06.04.03

The Senior Team's season kicked off for Knox City at the Polish Sport and Recreation Complex in Albion on Sunday. Unfortunately the long drive proved to be all in vain with the seniors being beaten 2-0.

Knox line-up was: Val Philippe in goal, Craig Kerr at sweeper. Anthony Edgar and Iain Callaghan marking the attackers, with Ivo Madeira and Brian Roper playing as wing backs. The trio of centre midfielders consisted of Marty O'Hare, Brett Lavale and Andy Asimakidis. Up front were the Veljovic brothers, Peter and Nick. On the bench was Mat Verniers, Nick Agetzis, Sammy Treadwell and Ben, the Under 18s keeper.

The Fitzroy team dominated the first 10-20 minutes of the game, as they showed what a tough team they will be to beat this season with some slick passing moves. In this time the Knox team didn't really get out of 1st gear, but both Ivo and Marty displayed some great endeavour. City went a goal behind when a quick counter attack by Fitzroy exposed the right side of Knox's defence. The ball was whipped in by the Fitzroy left midfielder and after a goalmouth scramble, the ball hit the back of the net from a Fitzroy head.



This goal seemed to wake Knox up a bit and they got into their stride a bit, putting pressure on Fitzroy with a few attacks with Nick Veljovic in particular working hard upfront. All the effort amounted to nothing as the 1st half ended with the Knox boys being down 1-0.

The second half began with Knox pushing forward, trying to first get an equaliser and then the winner. However, no matter what City tried, Fitzroy showed their Premier League experience from last season by sitting back and easily defending whatever Knox could muster. City's set pieces were a constant threat to Fitzroy with Anthony Edgar and Iain Callaghan proving quite dangerous, however there always seemed to be a Fitzroy head or body in the way.

For their entire endeavour, Knox just couldn't break through and was unlucky as it had a header by Peter Veljovic cleared off the line. Not soon after that, a second goal of the match was scored and unfortunately for the City boys it was another goal for Fitzroy. A header from a Fitzroy player looped over the stranded Val and into the top corner to give the home team a 2-0 lead.

Senior Coach Andy Humble then made a few changes replacing Peter Veljovic with Sam Treadwell, Brian Roper with Mat Verniers and Andy Asimakidis with Nick Agetzis. Craig Kerr was moved into his usual midfield role but couldn't provide the telling pass to set up a Knox goal. For all of City's attacking moves, the final pass was not quite there and the score stayed at 2-0 until the final whistle.

The new signings – Val, Iain, Andy and Brett all had serviceable games and will no doubt grow in confidence once they learn everyone else's style of play. The other “new boy” Nick Agetzis had a bit of an unfortunate start to his Knox career, when after going in for a tackle he came off second best and seriously injured his knee. Nick will be out of action for about 8-10 weeks – all the best with the recovery Nick.

Overall Knox was outplayed but with a little more luck, could've snuck a point. However there were many players who were certainly not at their best, so there is definitely room for improvement in next week's game – at Egan Lee Reserve versus Thomastown. (Reserves ko 1pm, Seniors ko 3pm) See you there!



ROUND 2

KNOX CITY 2 vs THOMASTOWN 2

12.04.03

A much better performance from Knox City after last week's disappointing season opening loss 2-0 at Fitzroy City.

Damian Everetts was back after suspension as sweeper and this released Craig Kerr into his customary influential role in midfield. Coach Andy Humble asked for a much greater level of intensity and was rewarded with a solid team performance. At the end of the day, it might have been a case of two points lost, rather than one gained. The first half was goal-less but was an entertaining affair. Nick Veljovic had a couple of half chances but, in the main, both defences were on top. The first goal came five minutes after the break, when a perfectly weighted right wing corner from Marty O' Hare was met by an emphatic header by big defender, Anthony Edgar to give the Thomastown keeper no chance. The lead however, lasted only a few minutes as some sloppy defending at the back gifted the visitors an equaliser. Val Phillippe, in the Knox goal saved the first effort but the ball broke kindly for Kablar and he found the net at the second attempt.

Knox almost took the lead again when stand in striker Sam Treadwell was played through and he lobbed the keeper from 25 metres only to see the ball miss the goal by an agonisingly small margin. Knox by now was dominating the game but with ten minutes to go, the visitors took the lead. Knox won a corner with the Thomastown keeper well out of position. In their haste to capitalise on this position, the corner was taken quickly with player streaming into the opposition penalty area. Thomastown cleared their lines and broke upfield with the Knox defence out of position. Puccio was on the end of this move and he scored with a low shot. Knox then pushed men forward in search of the equaliser, which finally came with four minutes left on the clock. Brett Lavale headed on a long throw from Nick Veljovic at the near post and Anthony Edgar was lurking at the back post to score his second of the game with a firm header.

This was a much more encouraging team effort. New goalkeeper, Val Philippe had a very solid game between the sticks and regular stalwarts, Craig Kerr, Damian Everetts and Anthony Edgar, put in the usual dependable performances. New signings in the middle of the park, Brett Lavale and Andrew Asimakidis also had good games.



ROUND 3

KNOX CITY 4 vs NTH COBURG 1

26.04.03

Knox City rode their luck in the first half at North Coburg, to finish clear winners, 4-1, in their Round 3 State League Division One match.

Goalkeeper Val Philippe kept them in the game before the break with a sensational display in which he made at least four one-on-one saves. It looked like a different story early on as Knox took the lead after just eight minutes. Brian Roper chased down a ball on the left and laid it back for Ivo Madiera, whose perfect cross was headed emphatically home by Nick Veljovic.

Just seven minutes later, the scores were level, when Knox lost the ball after clearing their lines and Henry Nunez raced clear to score. Then the floodgates threatened to open as North Coburg continually found space behind the Knox defence. Firstly, a dramatic goal line tackle by Damian Everetts cleared the lines and then Philippe came into his own as he single-handedly kept the home side at bay, making save after save. When he was not making spectacular saves, the home side's squandered their chances and their profligacy was to cost them dearly.

A half time roasting by Coach Andy Humble breathed new life into Knox, as they were unrecognisable from the first half. They shut down the North Coburg attack and started to create chances of their own. Brian Roper was unlucky when he hit the crossbar from 25 metres with the keeper beaten.

Despite their new found superiority and clearly better fitness, a draw still looked likely with 14 minutes to go, when suddenly Knox broke the game wide open. Nick Veljovic headed a free kick from Craig Kerr, who had another inspirational game, against the crossbar, but Ivo Madiera reacted quickest and headed Knox into the lead. Four minutes later, he turned provider when he broke down the right flank and laid on a perfect square ball for substitute Adam Doughty to side foot his first ever-senior goal for Knox.

The rout was completed in the 86th minute when Nick Veljovic controlled a long through ball with one touch and with the second drove an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net from 25 metres. By this stage, North Coburg was a dispirited and well-beaten side, a far cry from 45 minutes earlier.



ROUND 4

KNOX CITY 5 vs WESTVALE 2

03.05.03



For the second week in a row, three goals in eight minutes in the second half ensured a clear victory for Knox City in State League Division One. This week, Westvale was the victim as Knox notched up five goals to continue its current goal scoring form.

However, for the third time in four games this season, an early lead was squandered as defensive errors continue to worry coach Andy Humble. After 11 minutes, Knox took the lead when Damian Everetts made a great break from the back and Nick Veljovic deftly headed his pinpoint cross into the path of Ivo Madiera, who beat the keeper from close range.

Seven minutes later, Knox contrived to give the equaliser to Westvale, when once again the ball was given away deep in the defensive area and Gasparis was left with the easiest of chances from six metres.

On 37 minutes, a quick break saw Georgopoulos, in the Westvale goal make a great save from Doughty. Unfortunately for the keeper, the resultant corner kick from Marty O' Hare found big defender, Anthony Edgar and he made no mistake with his header to restore the lead for Knox.

Knox blew the opposition away with a devastating spell midway through the second half. After 63 minutes Nick Veljovic converted a free kick from Craig Kerr. Seven minutes later, a right wing cross from Marty O' Hare was met by Andrew Asimakidis, whose first volley was blocked on the line by a defender but his second effort buried the ball in the back of the net.

Almost immediately, last year's top scorer, Cameron Jones, on as a substitute after missing three weeks through suspension, latched on to a through ball and comprehensively beat the Georgopoulos from 20 metres.

Other chances came and went and Knox took the foot off the pedal in the dying stages as Balaban skipped past a number of tackles to score a good individual goal to make the final score line a little more respectable for Westvale at 5-2.

Knox City is at home again next week against Dandenong and will be looking to continue its impressive form of the last two weeks.



AFTER ROUND 4

- BY A.HUMBLE

We still have a hell of a lot of work to do before I'll be satisfied that we are on track to make a good fist of the league this year. Until we learn to be ruthless defensively we will always be a threat to ourselves.

Many problems we face as a team are problems that we create ourselves by being "unprofessional" to the basic and simple things. We must reduce these errors significantly to increase our chances of keeping clean sheets, something we haven't done yet this season.

On a more positive note, some notable performances so far this season by certain players need a mention.

Firstly Val Philippe in goal has been on fire in the last few weeks, and single headedly kept us in the game down at North Coburg. If not for Val we could have been down 4 or 5 by half time. Val has been a rock for us at the back and his kicking is a sight to see. Keep up the good work Val, I'm sure we'll see some Premier League clubs knocking on the door in the near future.

Craig Kerr is another one that has started the season playing out of his skin and leading by example like all good captains. Kerrie's work rate has been phenomenal so far, with his ball skills and passing ability it's a great asset to the team to have Kerrie in there.

Nick Veljovic has hit his straps now and is playing with confidence again, which is a great sign for us, and a worry for opposition defenders. Goals are all important to strikers and Nick has scored a couple of crackers lately, and is also getting himself into some great positions with intelligent running off the ball. Both Marty O'Hare and Ivo Madiera are playing some great soccer also and are causing major problems for our opposition and Anthony Edgar is starting to get back to his usual self of late, which is a great sight.

Special notes also to Andrew Asimikidis, Adam Doughty and Ivo Madeira for scoring their first goals for Knox recently. Well done Guys, I'm sure we will see a lot more.

On a sad note, all players and committee wish Nick Agetzis a speedy recovery from a knee injury suffered in our first game at Fitzroy. It looks like Nick could be out for 7-8 weeks with the injury, lets hope the time goes quickly for Nick's sake. All the best Nick and keep your chin up mate.

The next four games will be a good measure on exactly what Knox can achieve this year. We have some tough ones coming up, starting with Dandenong Thunder at "The Fort" next weekend. Following this we travel to Albion Rovers on Sunday the 18th May. The week after we are back at "The Fort" against Western Suburbs followed by a trip to newly promoted Kingston City.

I don't believe we have hit our true form as yet, although the latest results would contradict that statement, and hopefully we can do so within the next few weeks. If we do we COULD make a mark on this league, but it's in our hands.

Thanks must go to the support we have been getting so far this year at "The Fort". Great to see so many juniors and junior parents getting down to see the lads play, believe me your support does help, and the noise levels created when we've score has been motivation for the lads to put even more effort into their game. Thanks again to all our supporters, please keep cheering the lads on.

In closing I'd just like to say well done to the reserves in the last few weeks, Charlie's lads have been playing some good stuff lately and scoring some quality goals. Keep up the good work lads, your efforts are not going unnoticed.



SENIOR COACH

Andy Humble

ROUND 5

KNOX CITY 1 vs DANDENONG THUNDER 0

10.05.03

Knox City scored its third win in a row in the Victorian State League Division One when it beat Dandenong Thunder by a solitary goal. The winner came 15 minutes into the first half when Nick Veljovic soared to head home an accurate cross from Cameron Jones. Dandenong had started the faster of the two teams, but despite carving out at least four chances, failed to seriously worry the Knox defence.

In the second half, Dandenong again pressed, but the more clear-cut chances fell to Knox City as Jones failed to beat the Dandenong keeper with two clear cut chances and Nick Veljovic had a golden opportunity to wrap up the game late on when he allowed the goalkeeper to smother a shot from only six metres out. In the meantime, Dandenong had a lot of territorial advantage, but apart from a header that went narrowly wide and a fine Val Philippe save, they could not break down the Knox defence.

ROUND 6

KNOX CITY 2 vs ALBION ROVERS 0

18.05.03

Knox City scored its fourth consecutive State League Division One victory with a hard earned 2-0 victory at Albion Rovers on Sunday. Played with a gale force wind-blowing straight down the ground, this was always going to be a game of contrasting halves. Knox kicked against the wind in the first half and through excellent defending restricted the home side to virtually no clear-cut chances. Indeed, Albion only looked dangerous from free kicks and corners but Val Philippe in the Knox goal had relatively easy time. Knox even managed to carve out a couple of chances of its own late in the half.

After the break it was a different story. Almost immediately, Cameron Jones found himself free and his shot beat the keeper but narrowly missed the near post. Just as it looked as though it was going to be one-way traffic, Albion had a ten minute spell when their midfield runners found space and the Knox defence had to weather a rocky spell. Weather it they did and soon after the break through came. Craig Kerr made a determined run through the heart of the Albion defence, beating three players. When his run was arrested, the ball broke to Jones, who made no mistake from 15 metres. The pressure was now telling on Albion and they almost gifted another goal, but their keeper just smothered Nick Veljovic's shot.

The game was put beyond reach with 15 minutes to go when Kerr pounced on a loose ball and drove home the second in emphatic style. Knox was able to play out time comfortably to stay in third position on the ladder. A critical match is to be played next Saturday at Egan Lee Reserve, Knoxfield, when City entertains the second placed side, Western Suburbs.

ROUND 7

KNOX CITY 1 vs WESTERN SUBURBS 1

24.05.03

Third placed Knox City took on second placed Western Suburbs in a State league Division One encounter at Egan Lee Reserve and the result was a 1-1 draw. In Knox's case, it was probably two points lost rather than a point gained as they created by far the better of the chances in an entertaining game. Suburbs, on a five game winning streak, had to rely on a second half own goal to secure a share of the points.

Knox opened the brighter and Brett Lavale went close with a header from a Marty O' Hare corner in the third minute. Two minutes later, another O' Hare corner went begging as it flashed across the face of the goal. Seventeen minutes in and Knox got the goal that it deserved. Kristian Hale chased down a ball in the corner, played it back to O' Hare whose excellent cross was headed home decisively by Ivo Madeira for his third goal of the season. The visitors hit back with some skilful play but their finishing was weak and Knox went to the break with the narrowest of leads.

Ten minutes into the second half, Knox contrived to give away the lead. The ball was lost when breaking from defence and this left Suburbs with a man free on the right. Iain Callaghan unfortunately hooked his cross into his own goal. Both sides pressed for the winner, but Val Philippe in the Knox goal only had one decent save to make for the entire game, whereas at the other end Knox created some clear-cut chances. Cameron Jones missed from close range, Brett Lavale sent a screamer just wide and the visitors' keeper spread himself well to block a close range shot from Nick Veljovic.



In the end, it was a result that neither side wanted, although Western Suburbs were probably the happier side at the final whistle. The positive for Knox was that it showed that it has nothing to fear from any side in the league. It has now gone six games without defeat and takes on Kingston City away next Saturday.

Third placed Knox City took on second placed Western Suburbs in a State league Division One encounter at Egan Lee Reserve and the result was a 1-1 draw. In Knox's case, it was probably two points lost rather than a point gained as they created by far the better of the chances in an entertaining game. Suburbs, on a five game winning streak, had to rely on a second half own goal to secure a share of the points.

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AFTER ROUND 7

- BY A.HUMBLE

With better finishing over the past few weeks our position would be much stronger than it is right now. And with Heidelberg and Oakleigh to play in the next two weeks our finishing certainly needs to be spot on.

I have been happy with the team, as a whole, over the past 4-5 games, and I do believe we are getting more professional in our attitude to games and situations within games, which are great assets to any team's performance, and increase its chances of getting something out of games. Being smart is crucial to getting results, and we are now realizing that and the results are proving it. Long may that continue?

We still have a lot of games left and some very tough ones coming up. No game is easy, just some are harder than others, and we will see just how good we are over the next three weeks. With one away and two at The Fort, we would certainly like to get our fair share of the points, and will certainly be going for all of them! The halfway mark is always a good place to reflect on things, as you've played all the teams and you have a fair idea where you stand, providing you can be objective in your assessment of the teams' performances.

Speaking of performances, and good ones at that, its great to see Craig Kerr celebrating his 100th game for Knox City this weekend against Heidelberg. Craig joined the club from Mooroolbark in 1998, and in the meantime has suffered two broken ankles, so it's great to see him reach that personal milestone. He has been an outstanding performer for Knox, always in the running for player of year, over those years of service (Although Wee Willie might disagree!!) and a pleasure to work with as a player and a coach. Well-done Craig and all the best on Saturday.

On a sad note it's been our displeasure to actually inform certain players their services are no longer required, or at least very limited. I guess it's the nature of the beast in a sense. We have some great young talent coming through and as such we must make way for this potential for the future of the club. Its not a nice situation to be in on a personal level, and no-one wins on a personal level, but it's a must on a professional level and a must if we are to secure the future of the first team in the next 2-3 years.

To all the players that have been told, I wish you all the best I hope that things do work out for the best. Alan Morley has already left the club and appeared for Ringwood City last weekend.

Speaking of the young lads, once again it's a pleasure for me to mention the quality of some of the games I've seen the reserves play this year. My only regret is I only get to see the first half and then rely on Chas for a review of the second half. But, some of the stuff I've seen has been excellent. With many U16 and U18 players also involved its great to see things going so well for the team, and I'm sure we will only see that improve. Well done lads, keep up the excellent work.

Thanks again to the Knox supporters we've been seeing at the games. It seems to be improving all the time and I hope you all continue to come down and lend us your support. I can't tell you how much it means to the players when they get that support from the sidelines. It's a great motivator, especially when things are even on the park and a little inspiration is needed, it can make all the difference.

Finally, it was great to see the lads out in force last weekend to celebrate Andrew Asimikidis' 21st. Nothing better for building team spirit, and some spirit we saw on Saturday night!! (Is Black Sambuca a spirit???) Happy Birthday again Andrew, and all the best for the future. Lets make sure we all support the club at the Rock n Roll night and have another good night and a good laugh!



SENIOR COACH
Andy Humble

ROUND 8

KNOX CITY 0 vs KINGSTON CITY 0

31.05.03

Knox City failed to break down the Kingston City defence at Grange Reserve on Saturday and had to settle for a scoreless draw in their State League Division One game.

In blustery conditions, Knox took 25 minutes to settle into the game but despite this they did not look like conceding a goal to a shot shy Kingston team that has found goals hard to come by this season. The ball seem to spend more time out of play as both sides found the wind difficult to manage. After 25 minutes, Knox dominated the rest of the first half and chances, although few, started to appear. Cameron Jones had the two best opportunities but failed to convert either.

Kicking with advantage of the wind in the second half, Knox pressed forward but still lacked the sharpness that they have shown in recent games. Kristian Hale came close when he pounced on a half chance and forced the Kingston keeper, Motsiopoulos, into a smart save. Craig Kerr and Damian Everetts both saw good long-range efforts. The former was well saved by the keeper and the latter narrowly cleared the crossbar with the keeper beaten.

Meantime Kingston created very little and their only breaks came when Knox gave the ball away. Val Phillippe in the Knox goal was called on to make a couple of smart saves, but Kingston's lack of ambition meant a relatively easy time for the Knox City defence.

The best chance came fifteen minutes from the end. Ivo Madeira put over a well weighted cross from the right. Nick Veljovic cushioned the ball down to Andrew Asimakidis whose shot was well saved by Motsiopoulos low down.

The home side seemed well satisfied with the point, but Knox would have felt that they let two points slip for the second week in a row.

Knox City plays Heidelberg United at home next Saturday.



CRAIG KERR'S 100TH GAME

vs HEIDELBERG UNITED

07.06.03

This Saturday at Fort Knox Craig Kerr plays his 100th game for the club.

Craig had a strong junior career playing for Croydon City, and on several occasions represented the Eastern region in the junior representative competition. Craig quickly established a reputation as an imaginative ball player and was rewarded with selection in the Victorian Soccer Federation Youth Team.

From Croydon Craig then joined Mooroolbark Soccer Club, strong seasons with the "barkers" consolidated Craig's reputation and from here he was invited to trial at Knox City.

It didn't take long before Craig cemented his spot in the senior side as a central midfielder, at this stage Knox City was a powerhouse in the Victorian State 2 division. It was not all-smooth sailing as Craig suffered a broken ankle not once but twice, however hard work and the right preparation has seen Craig overcome this setback. In Knox City's championship side of 2001, Craig formed a crucial part of the "engine room" and since has been rewarded with captaincy of the club.

On behalf of the Supporters, Players, Coaches, Club and Committee members "CONGRATULATIONS Craig" on yet another milestone.



ROUND 9

KNOX CITY 2 vs HEIDELBERG UNITED 3

07.06.03

A mighty effort by Knox City yielded no points against Heidelberg at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday. Playing against a team with a number of current and ex-National League players, Knox matched it with the Heidelberg side for the entire 90 minutes, but despite twice taking the lead they came away empty handed.

The first chance fell Knox's way when a Craig Kerr corner flashed across the face of goal without anyone getting a touch. Heidelberg couldn't settle as Knox hassled them all over the park. Despite a fair amount of possession, their star forward line was not able to create any clear-cut chances.

Knox took the lead after 22 minutes in a passage of play that may well have determined the outcome of the game. Nick Veljovic was put through and he cut across the last defender only to be brought down on the edge of the penalty area. The Referee, after consulting his Assistant decided that Mangos, the offender was not the last defender and he handed out only a yellow card when to most observers it appeared that a sending off was the appropriate penalty. Despite the fact that Knox scored from the resultant free kick, they should have been playing ten men for the rest of the game. Marty O'Hare found a way past the wall with his free kick. Kourtis, in the Heidelberg goal could only parry the ball and Cameron Jones was on hand to stab home the loose ball.

Kourtis kept the visitors in the game when he pushed a fierce shot from Veljovic passed the post. Knox were certainly good value for their one goal lead at half time.

Heidelberg came out for the second half in determined fashion and it took them only six minutes to equalise. Boutsianis converted a free kick outside the penalty area in style.

Knox, however hit back in the best possible manner when they regained the lead one-minute later. Ivo Madeira broke free on the right and as he got to the bye-line he cut the ball back for Andrew Asimakidis to side foot the ball into the net.

As Heidelberg pressed forward, gaps appeared at the back and Nick Veljovic could have sealed the game for Knox when he was put clear in a one on one with Kourtis, who made an excellent stop to deny the Knox striker. Jones and Veljovic both had chances to increase the lead, but Knox was to rue the missed chances as two goals in three minutes cost them dearly. Firstly, a partially cleared corner was knocked back into the danger area where it hit Boutsianis and deflected onto the cross bar and into the net to give the visitors the equaliser.

Almost immediately, a through ball found Kalegaracos just onside and he drove the ball across Val Philippe into the far corner for what turned out to be the winner.

Despite pushing forward and going close on a couple of occasions, Knox couldn't snatch a draw that would have been well deserved on the overall play.

Congratulations must also be paid to Craig Kerr on 100 appearances for the club.

ROUND 10

KNOX CITY 1 vs OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2

13.06.03

Knox City lost by the odd goal in three to the undefeated league leaders, Oakleigh under lights on Friday night.

In truth, it was one of Knox's poorer performances this year in State League Division One although the result was in doubt right up to the final whistle. Oakleigh started quickly and took the lead after only six minutes. A strike from the edge of the area rebounded off the base of the post and Daglis was quickest to react, prodding the ball home from a couple of metres.

It took Knox 30 minutes to get into the game as they continually gave the ball away and as a consequence were boxed in their own half for much of the play. They finally started to string some passes together and in the quarter of an hour before the break created three clear cut chances and equalised.

The best move of their half saw a quick interchange of passes that allowed Marty O' Hare to burst through the defence. His spectacular shot from the edge of the area just flew wide with the Oakleigh keeper well beaten. Seven minutes from the break, the equaliser came from a left wing corner. Oakleigh failed to clear the ball and four shots were charged down before Cameron Jones was on hand to drive the ball into the corner of the net.

Parity remained only until the second minute of stoppage time, when Knox again relinquished the ball coming out of defence. A free kick was conceded and this was headed back across goal where Nilo pounced at the far post to tuck the ball past Val Philippe from close range.

Knox battled hard during the second half but created little. Oakleigh again had most of the possession but failed to take advantage of the few clear-cut chances that came its way. Philippe made three crucial saves to keep Knox in the game. It might have paid dividends had Brett Lavale been able to connect with an excellent Craig Kerr free kick five minutes from the end. He had stolen round the back of the Oakleigh defence but was a whisker away from netting.

Oakleigh was reduced to ten men in the dying minutes when Kiratzagloul was red carded, but there was insufficient time for Knox to turn the numerical superiority to its advantage.



ROCK 'N ROLL NIGHT

The Rock and Roll Night was a fun night had by all. Great costumes, great people, great food, great drink and great dancing were definitely the theme of the night!

The band, NQR - Not Quite Right - kept the tunes going the whole night as everyone hit the dance floor and showed their moves. Check out the pics for all the action and some laughs.



"The Afro Boys"
Orr, Lavale and
Callaghan



"Hareski"
Moves on the dance
floor.



"The Lads"
A motley crew



"The Fonz"
Cor ripping it up!



"The 60's man"
Asimakidis, Hale and
Callaghan



"The Chic's"
Were all in fine form.



"The Band"
Not Quite Right.



"Belt' in out a
number"
Brett and Kelly.



"Kerr"
Nice legs, shame
about the ...

ROUND 11

KNOX CITY 3 vs NORTHCOTE CITY 0

21.06.03

Whilst still not at their best, Knox City got back on their winning ways with a comfortable 3-0 win at Egan Lee Reserve over a Northcote side that played attractive soccer but which lacked penetration in the final third.

Knox's strike pairing of Nick Veljovic and Cameron Jones also returned to form and accounted for all of the goals. They could have more as there pace and movement constantly found gaps in the Northcote defence.

The home side got off to a good start when they took the lead after 15 minutes. Jones started a run across the edge of the Northcote penalty area and Veljovic finished off in some style with a sweetly struck drive that buried itself in the far corner of the net. After this, Knox took its foot off the pedal and came under some pressure as they continually gave the ball away. Fortunately, the visitors were tame in front of goal and Val Philippe comfortably dealt with everything that came his way.

Knox doubled the lead just before the interval in bizarre circumstances. A through ball found Jones in an offside position but the Referee played advantage as the ball ran through to the Northcote keeper. Thinking the Referee had blown for the offside, he side footed the ball back to where Jones was standing. Realising that the Referee had not whistled, Jones simply took a couple of paces and found the unguarded net. Knox continued to struggle to get its game flowing early in the second half and had a let off when Salievski hit the crossbar from 15 metres. Philippe was then called upon to make a fine one-on-one save from Korkaric, injuring himself in the process.

The sealer came fifteen minutes into the half when Jones broke down the left and sent over a fine cross for Veljovic to muscle past his defender to score his second of the match. This effectively ended the contest but Knox could have increased their lead when Kristian Hale was narrowly wide with an overhead kick and the Northcote keeper twice saved well from Jones.

The win moves Knox back into fourth place in State League Division One at the halfway stage of the season. Another home fixture follows next week, when Fitzroy City are the visitors. Knox will be looking for revenge after a defeat in the reverse match on the opening day of the season.



ROUND 12

KNOX CITY 3 vs FITZROY CITY 0

28.06.03

Knox City cemented its spot in fourth place in State League Division One on Saturday with a solid 3-0 win over Fitzroy City. The win gave City some revenge for a 2-0 defeat at Fitzroy in the opening game of the season.

The first fifteen minutes were inconclusive and the only chances at either end came when defenders sliced balls dangerously close to own goals. The next ten to fifteen saw the Knox team with their backs to the wall as they were reduced to ten men and then to nine as Craig Kerr and Kristian Hale had to leave the field bleeding profusely after catching wayward elbows. The scene was frantic on and off the park. On the park as the nine men worked hard to keep their shape and deny the visitors clear-cut chances. Off the park as the Knox physio, Angus Bell worked quickly to staunch the bleeding of both players and then to patch them up for a return to the game.

Upon returning to full strength, Knox took a few minutes to get its rhythm back and then took control with two goals in a six minutes spell. On the half hour, a free kick on the edge of the penalty area was taken quickly by Craig Kerr and with the Fitzroy defence caught out, Cameron Jones easily beat the keeper from 10 metres. Then Nick Veljovic scored from 20 metres with a powerfully struck shot that gave the Fitzroy keeper no chance.

By comparison, the second half was tame with Knox content to contain and attack on the break. Fitzroy created very little and Val Philippe in the Knox goal was only troubled on one occasion when he made a fine finger tip save.

It was only in the last ten minutes that Knox re-asserted itself and Jones, Andrew Asimakidis and Marty O'Hare all forced the Fitzroy keeper into full length saves. The third goal came in stoppage time when man of the match Anthony Edgar headed a well-placed free kick from Kerr home.



AFTER ROUND 12

- BY A.HUMBLE

Halfway through the season, and a good time to reflect on where we stand. With five wins three draws and three loses we are currently sitting in fourth position, on eighteen points. That's four points more than at this stage last year. We have scored five more goals and conceded five less goals than at the same time last season. Signs that is both encouraging and motivating for both coaches and players to continue to improve.

It certainly hasn't been easy, and as with anything in life, it's hard work and commitment that will be rewarded. We are a hard working side and we continually impress on the players that if we drop that level of work below our accepted standard we will struggle to compete against the sides that are technically better than us. The team is learning every week the importance of having to battle to win games and every week we have been in a position to win that particular game. The end result obviously depending on if we take our chances.

The last two weeks haven't been the best, soccer wise, with a 2-1 loss to Oakleigh Cannons under lights at their place and a 3-0 win at The Fort last week against Northcote City. The Oakleigh game we just weren't at the races, and played for maybe fifteen minutes, causing all sorts of problems in that period. All credit to Oakleigh however, they are a well-organized and skilful side, but certainly beatable. I think they may find the going tougher in the second half of the season. Against Northcote we didn't play to our potential but still came away with a 3-0 win, but the score line flattered us somewhat, even though we did miss a couple of one on ones also. We battled hard and fought very well as a team, but lacked imagination and skill on the ball. As I said earlier, if we keep battling and working hard we will get the results, the Northcote game was a classic example of that. I'd rather play like we did against Northcote and get three points than play like we did against Heidelberg and get nothing!

I'm sure the coming weeks will show us playing to our best again and playing the sort of attractive passing game that we all want to see, without losing site of the three points that we want at the end of the day.

One aspect of the Knox City Soccer Club is that the team normally goes from strength to strength as the season draws on, while the so called richer clubs tend to lose their way and drop out of contention for promotion. This year should be no different with a number of clubs pulling the financial carpet out from underneath their players and leaving them high and dry as far as wages and opportunities to leave go. When the money dries up at these clubs so does the talent, or at least the will of the players to keep playing and putting in for nothing. This has never, in my time at least, happened at Knox, and never will as far as the current committee is concerned. All too often we see teams drop down after the halfway mark, or after the transfer season is over, with player walkouts and under performance being the order of the day. It will be interesting to see what happens in the next four or five weeks as clubs decide if the money they have promised players is still available. Whatever is promised at Knox will always be made available.

The reserves are also moving along nicely and currently are second in the table. Some great performances by the young lads over the past half season have seen them up where they belong. Its certainly pleasing to see the lads try and play as much as possible also, and as I've said before some of the young talent coming through is encouraging for the future of the club if those players can make the jump from reserves to first team level. Also pleasing to see is the Super League sides and some of talent coming through those teams. As far as youth development goes the club is looking in a strong position for the next three or four years, provided we can keep them. I certainly hope I'm involved in seeing the progression of those players through the ranks.

Thanks again to the supporters that are getting down to see us play. We are getting some good support and its great to see so many stay back after the games for a quick drink and a chat. It's always great to see a number of ex Knox City players come down and support the Lads also.

As most of you would have seen, the merchandise shop is now open and some of the gear is quality. Its great to see so much of it also worn by the supporters when they come down and it certainly makes for a good look when we travel away and see the badge on so many hats and tops etc. If you haven't yet seen what is available have a look at the store on-line and check out the pictures, as I said some of the gear is quality and its obvious Cor had nothing to do with the designs chosen!!! Heehee (Sorry Cor, had to say that).

On a lighter note, if you see Andy Asimakidis around the club, ask him to keep his legs closed during training sessions!



SENIOR COACH
Andy Humble

CAMMERON JONES'S 50TH GAME

Vs THOMASTOWN

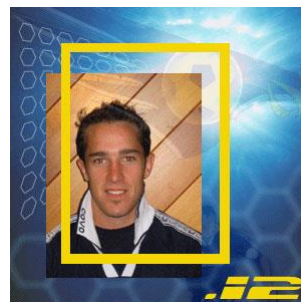
06.07.03

On Sunday away against Thomastown Cameron Jones starts his 50th game for Knox.

Cameron came to Knox City S.C from neighbouring club Knox Park, he made the switch whilst still a junior player, and played a few seasons as a promising young player before integrating into the senior set-up. His senior career started on the right side of midfield, doubling as a wingback before his pace was soon put to use as a proficient striker.

Since returning from suspension early this year Cameron has been one of the stand out players for Knox City. His dazzling pace has proved difficult for opposition defences to handle, while also a delight for spectators to watch. Cameron has a tireless work ethic and his fitness level enables him to chase down opposition players all day!

On behalf of the Supporters, Players, Coaches, Club and Committee members "CONGRATULATIONS Cameron" on a super start to your senior career.



ROUND 13

KNOX CITY 2 vs THOMASTOWN 0

06.07.03

Scorers – Kerr, Asimakidis

No Report.

ROUND 14

KNOX CITY 1 vs NTH COBURG 0

12.07.03

Nine goals for, none against, maximum points in their last four matches and Knox City is on a roll in State League Division One. A hard fought 1-0 victory completed the double against a very competitive North Coburg side at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday.

In truth, it always looked as though a single goal might be enough to separate the sides and that's the way it turned out. There were few clear-cut chances and the goalkeepers were not called upon to make spectacular saves, but it was end to end and keenly fought.

Ten minutes in and Anthony Edgar met a corner from Marty O' Hare with a header that beat the North Coburg keeper but bounced down off the crossbar and was hacked to safety. Nick Veljovic also had a couple of half chances but little else came the way of the Knox forwards.

At the other end, the Knox defence was looking solid even though the visitors showed no small amount of skill going forward and Val Philippe in goal was left to deal with a number of innocuous crosses.

The second half started as the first had ended with the defences on top. The break came after 17 minutes of the half when Cameron Jones went on one of his trade mark runs, eluded a couple of defenders and fired home from 20 metres.

North Coburg continued to get into good positions but failed to look dangerous except for one cross, which eluded the Knox defenders only for Ulyanek to somehow scoop the ball over the open goal from six metres out. That was North Coburg's chance to equalise gone begging and from then Knox always looked the more likely to add to their score. Veljovic curled a long range shot agonisingly past the far post as they pressed for a second. It never came but the three points did to put Knox into second position, albeit pending the results on Sunday.

Next week, Knox travels to a rejuvenated Westvale, which has had two upset wins in its last two matches.



ROUND 15

KNOX CITY 4 vs WESTVALE 1

19.07.03

The Knox City bandwagon rolls on with a slightly flattering 4-1 away win at Westvale in State League Division One match on Saturday. The result again lifts Knox into second spot pending the results of the Sunday games.

A bumpy pitch was not conducive to a flowing game and both sides took some time to get any rhythm. Matt Broxham, making his first senior start in goal for Knox got an early touch when he raced off his line to save at the feet of the onrushing forward. The Westvale defence was being caught square almost every time Knox attacked and both Cameron Jones and Nick Veljovic found themselves in the clear but both chose to shoot when a square ball to the other would surely have resulted in goals. At the other end, the Knox defence was guilty of allowing the Westvale attack too much room and chances began to appear at both ends.

440 minutes of not conceding a goal came to an end for Knox in the 38th minute when Broxham tried to play the ball back into his area. Timetheou appeared to kick the ball from his hands but the referee allowed play to continue and the Westvale forward slotted the ball into the unguarded net.

Knox hit back immediately and equalised within 30 seconds of the restart. Again, Westvale's defence was square and a through ball released Craig Kerr who beat the advancing keeper with a well-placed shot

Coach Andy Humble emphasised the need to track the runners more closely at the back and Knox's defence looked more solid after the break. Despite having plenty of the ball, Westvale failed to find the route to goal and Broxham had little to deal with but did what he had to do competently.

The stalemate was broken in the 73rd minute when Veljovic stole the ball and made ground quickly before calmly driving the ball home. After that, the chances started to flow Knox's way. Veljovic drove over after an excellent square ball from Kristian Hale found him in space and Marty O' Hare cleverly lobbed Frangos in the Westvale goal, only to see a defender desperately clear the ball off the goal line.

By now, Knox was well in control and the third goal came in the 89th minute when Jones again beat the offside trap to steer the ball into the corner of the net. The rout was completed in the fourth minute of stoppage time when Anthony Edgar surged forward down the left wing, played the ball to the far post to Veljovic who immediately sent it back across goal where Edgar had followed up to head home. Knox City travels to Dandenong next Saturday needing another good result to keep the pressure on the other promotion candidates.

AFTER ROUND 15

BY A.HUMBLE

With seven games left, the race is on for the top two positions and promotion to the Premier League. Four teams now in the race and we are in the enviable position of having to play the other three in our run in. So, it's all in our hands, which is exactly the way we would like it. It's going to be an exciting seven games, your vocal support will certainly make a difference, and something that all involved in the club should be proud of. Especially the players - "Enjoy this!"

I can't praise the team enough for the efforts so far this season and getting to where we are now has been a tremendous improvement on last season. We finished last season with thirty points, and we have that now with still seven games to play. The team has been keeping a lid on things as far as promotion goes, and we are just making sure we compete every week and keep the pressure on the top three. The last five weeks have certainly been a pleasure to be involved in with five wins out of five, scoring thirteen goals and conceding only one. Excellent stats in any league. Long may that continue.

A number of players have really stamped their authority on many games this year, and with every game the confidence is breeding. Everyone has contributed to getting the team in the excellent position its in, but special mention must go to Craig Kerr, Damien Everetts, Anthony Edgar and Kristian Hale for their games over the past month or so. All four have done a great job for the team. Also great to see Nick Veljovic and Cameron Jones vying for the top goal scorer this season, both have hit a rich vein of scoring form of late and should be looking at getting at least 14 goals a piece. Not to forget the scoring efforts of Anthony Edgar also, great to have a defender that can also score a few goals for you, but "Big Tone" is doing some serious damage this season.

With the players in fine form at the moment, and getting results, it's obviously frustrating for the rest of the squad players at the club. Not only do we have more quality depth, for the first time in a long time, but I also have been in a difficult position for team selection most weeks. Very few injuries and no suspensions make it difficult to get any rotation of players. Players such as Iain Callaghan and Andrew Asimikidis have been very very unfortunate of late, with the replacement players doing a great job for the team and keeping them out. Also players that are doing so well in the reserves such as Steve Bouios, Matty Orr, Brian Roper, Adam Doughty and Peter Veljovic can count themselves unlucky at their limited game time. I want to try getting everyone involved but it's difficult, as I've said above. All I ask is that the lads be patient and when the opportunity does come up, take it!

Speaking of the reserves it is still great to see them doing so well, and at time of writing, top of the league, four points clear of second. From what I have seen this is certainly well deserved. The young lads are doing ever so well, and some of the football being played is a pleasure to watch. So long as they can keep the discipline and emotion in tact I believe they can go all the way this year, and it would be just deserts for a great season, and certainly something to build on for next season. Well done to all the young boys so far, keep up the good work.

The next few weeks sees us travelling away to Dandenong Thunder, which is always a difficult place to pick up points. After that we play Albion Rovers at "The Fort" Western Suburbs away and then Kingston back at "The Fort". All tough games in there own right, but games that we need to get something from if we are to make a push for the top two places. If you can get down to any of the games please do so and support the lads, as I've said all season your support does make a difference and its always nice to get the crowd helping the players on, especially away from home.

Just to finish off, if anyone sees a Donkey running down the Western Ring Road with a Melways in its mouth, can you let Andrew Asimikidis know? He needs both to get to the next away game. (Sorry Andy, but its you again!!!)



SENIOR COACH
Andy Humble

ROUND 16

KNOX CITY 4 vs DANDENONG THUNDER 3

26.07.03

Knox City won its sixth game on end in trying conditions at Dandenong on Saturday to keep the pressure on the teams above it in State League Division One.

Knox blew Dandenong away in the first ten minutes of the game, then had to survive a fight back by the home side in the second half before their fighting spirit came to the fore as they grabbed the winner with seven minutes remaining in a pulsating game. For the spectators, this was undoubtedly the match of the season. For Andy Humble and his bench staff, it was a heart stopper.

Six minutes in and Knox took the lead. Good approach play by Cameron Jones and Nick Veljovic was rewarded when Brett Lavale drove home his first goal of the season via the underside of the crossbar. Four minutes later and it was a two-goal lead. Jones was fouled but an excellent advantage played by the Referee allowed him to recover and square the ball to Veljovic who made no mistake.

The rest of the first half saw Knox well on top and dealing comfortably with anything the home side could throw at it. At this stage there was no sign of the drama to come.

The second half was the most exciting 45 minutes that any spectator could have wished for. Dandenong pushed forward and started to create chances. Matt Broxham in the Knox goal was called upon to make a couple of smart saves. On the hour, Marty O'Hare made a brilliant last-ditch tackle to thwart former Knox striker Miles Tidd. From the resultant corner, however, the ball was headed forward and Tairovski scooped the ball into the net from close range.

A minute later and the two-goal advantage was restored. Veljovic went up with Davey, the Dandenong keeper, who spilled the ball. Veljovic recovered the quicker and swivelled and drove the ball into the net. Instead of lying down, Dandenong struck back immediately and Memeti stepped inside his defender and curled a fine shot into the far corner a minute later.

The game was now flowing from end to end. Veljovic and Jones both had shots blocked on the goal line, however Dandenong drew level in the 72nd minute when Diorio curled a free kick into the net from 25 metres.

By now spaces were appearing all over the ground and Jones and substitute Adam Doughty twice got clear only to see their shots fly narrowly wide. With seven minutes left Jones broke the offside trap and raced towards goal. The ball momentarily stopped in one of the many pools of surface water, but he was able to recover and he drove the ball past Davey into the far corner of the goal.

Dandenong was reduced to ten men when Damiano received his second yellow card and Knox saw out time to record a memorable victory.

ROUND 17

KNOX CITY 3 vs ALBION ROVERS 0

02.08.03

Three goals from State League Division One's leading goal scorers, Nick Veljovic and Cameron Jones gave Knox City a comfortable win over struggling Albion Rovers at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday. Veljovic now has twelve goals for the season and Jones eleven as Knox continue to live the dream of Premier League soccer next season

Despite playing against the wind in the first half, Knox dominated the half and but for some poor finishing could have been four or five goals to the good by the interval. Three minutes in and Anthony Edgar's header from a left wing corner hit the cross bar and was scrambled to safety. Edgar, Jones and Veljovic all had fairly simple chances but scuffed their shots from close range. Veljovic then met a corner with a header back across the goal but again the woodwork denied Knox.

Just when it seemed as though it was going to be a frustrating day for the home side, Veljovic struck a blinding drive from 25 metres low into the corner of the net past the despairing dive of Duman in the 31st minute.

Albion's sole chance of the half came shortly afterwards as Knox was exposed down the left side and the defence failed to clear the resultant cross. However, the shot from Alibeyi was well off target

Knox continued on the attack after the break and the important second goal came in the 63rd minute when a well-placed corner from Marty O'Hare was flicked on and Jones at the far post was able to squeeze the ball home through a crowd of players. The third goal came with twelve minutes left. Jones hunted down the ball near the half, then made ground quickly before releasing Veljovic with a deft through pass that split the last two defenders. The big striker finished the move with in style with a clever chip over the helpless Duman.

In the last minute of the game, Albion was awarded a penalty when Anthony Edgar tripped his attacker. Albion's day of woe was completed when Bebic drove the spot kick high over the bar.

Next Sunday, Knox City visits Western Suburbs at Ardeer in a crucial match that pits third against fourth. A win will not only allow Knox to leapfrog one of their promotion rivals but will also equal the club record of eight successive victories, a record set two years ago in its undefeated Division Two Championship year.



ROUND 18

KNOX CITY 0 vs WESTERN SUBURBS 0

10.08.03

Two penalties saved, the woodwork hit at both ends, a string of sensational saves by both keepers - this was not your average 0-0 draw. In the end, a highly competitive and entertaining game at Ralph Reserve pleased neither side as both teams needed three points to keep up the pressure on the top two teams in State League Division One.

Western Suburbs started much the faster and for the first half hour dominated the game. They were quicker to the ball, won just about every second ball and kept the pressure on Knox City, which was seeking to equal its club record of eight successive league victories.



Lojanica struck the foot of the post from a free kick just outside the area and then Val Philippe in the Knox goal came into his own. First he made a brilliant finger tip save to deny Suburbs and then he saved a spot kick from Mario Medogoric when Craig Kerr handled.

Having weathered the storm, Knox came firing back on all cylinders and could have grabbed two goals in the 15 minutes before the break. A right wing corner was driven to the far post by Marty O'Hare where Anthony Edgar got up highest and headed the ball back across goal where Brett Lavale turned and drove the ball against the crossbar with Watkins in the Suburbs goal well beaten. Then Nick Veljovic had a header brilliantly tipped over by Watkins as the half drew to a close.

Knox's renowned fighting spirit saw them continue their good form after the interval and they continually worried the Suburbs defence with their pace and movement. Despite this, it looked as though the home side would break the deadlock when they were awarded a second penalty after Damian Everetts was adjudged to have brought down his man. A different penalty taker produced the same result as Philippe made another excellent stop, this time from Pelja.



Knox's good work looked to have paid dividends when Cameron Jones found some space on the right and sent over an inch perfect cross, which was met by a perfectly placed header from Lavale. Out of nowhere, came Watkins to make a world class save and finger tip the ball round the post.

Both sides were still looking for the winner, as they knew that a point was no good for either team. Jones squeezed his way through three defenders only for Tom Markovski to get a toe to the ball, as he was about to unleash a shot on goal.

In the end, it was a day for both keepers to savour as they dealt with everything that was thrown at them to keep clean sheets.



ROUND 19

KNOX CITY 1 vs KINGSTON CITY 1

16.08.03

Missed chances cost Knox City dearly in its home game against relegation threatened Kingston City. Not only were two points lost but also a major dent was inflicted into their hopes of promotion to the Premier League.

Kingston soon made its intention clear. Getting eleven men behind the ball as soon as Knox gained possession, it was obvious that they meant to deny the home side space and to rely on sporadic breakaways in the hope of stealing an unlikely goal. It took Knox a while to get to grips with the packed defence, but slowly they started to take charge. Cameron Jones and Nick Veljovic were again dangerous and the former should have given Knox the lead but he chose to go for goal instead of passing to his strike partner and Motsiopoulos beat out his near post effort. Andrew Asimakidis also broke free only to see his shot rebound off the crossbar.

The break through finally came after 34 minutes. Jones skipped past his marker on the right and crossed to Veljovic. The ball took a nasty bounce but Veljovic calmly brought it under control, cut inside his defender and drove the ball into the far corner of the net.

Knox was seldom put under pressure but they contrived to give the lead away on the stroke of half time. The ball was lost in midfield and a couple of missed tackles resulted in a corner being conceded. The defence failed to clear the ball and it fell to David Breslin who managed to squeeze the ball home from 12 metres.

The second half was in the main more one sided than the first. Chance after chance went begging and Kingston was content to soak up the pressure. Jones hit the cross bar from close range and Anthony Edgar scooped the ball over the bar from a similar distance. Veljovic went close with a number of efforts. When Knox was on target, Motsiopoulos kept his side in the game with a series of fine saves.

As the game wore on and the home side pressed for the winner, they left gaps at the back and were nearly punished when Pino broke down the left. He squared the ball to Eleftheriadis, who missed when it seemed easier to score.

Knox continued to exert pressure to the final whistle, but was left to rue the earlier missed chances and now need to win their remaining three games and hope that the teams above them slip up.

ROUND 20

KNOX CITY 1 vs HEIDELBERG UNITED 0

31.08.03

The fat lady is still not singing on Knox City's improbable dream as an 89th minute winner kept its 10 game unbeaten streak going against second place Heidelberg in atrocious conditions at Olympic Village on Sunday evening.

The simple fact is that Knox played as though it wanted the points more. Maybe Heidelberg thought a 0-0 result would have been enough to steer them through to promotion. It might have been but for the last minute drama.

Despite the conditions, the game was played at a fast pace and the first half was end to end. Nick Veljovic went close on a number of occasions, being thwarted by two brilliant saves from Jim Kourtis. The woodwork denied him a third time. Heidelberg, behind the prompting of Duzel in the midfield always looked dangerous but Val Philippe, in the Knox goal was the less busy of the two keepers.

Knox really took the game to the home side after the break, as they attacked incessantly looking for the vital breakthrough. Cameron Jones again brought out the best from Kourtis as a fingertip save denied the Knox striker's effort from 20 metres. Jones again got free on the left and his cross agonisingly skidded across the face of goal with Veljovic unable to make contact. Then Jones chose to shoot when the better option was an unmarked Veljovic at the far post. Damian Everetts went on a barnstorming run, beating player after player before Kourtis smothered the ball at his feet.

Heidelberg came more into the game in the dying stages and Philippe was forced to make a couple of fine saves, including a one-on-one against Yusef. The rebound was charged down on the line by a defender. Heidelberg then hit the cross bar as Knox went three up front, inevitably leaving gaps at the back.

Just when it seemed that the game would finish in a stale mate, drama unfolded in the 89th minute. Jones beat three players in a jinking run and was upended as he got into the penalty area. Veljovic stepped up to take the spot kick and he beat Kourtis only to see the ball hit the underside of the bar and rebound out. Tempted to play at the ball a second time, Veljovic withdrew at the last minute and a defender hacked the ball off the line only for Andrew Asimakidis to drive the ball home from an acute angle.

Knox held out for the last couple of minutes and the three points tighten everything up for the second promotion spot. It's going right down to the wire.

ROUND 21

KNOX CITY 1 vs OAKLEIGH CANNONS 0

06.09.03

Knox City's dream of promotion to the Victorian Premier League lives on to the very last week of the season. After beating the second place Heidelberg last week, they followed up with a last gasp win over Champions elect, Oakleigh, at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday.

Last week it was an 89th minute winner that sealed the three points. This week the all-important goal came in the 87th minute. Again, it was a tribute to Knox's incredible fighting spirit as they ran over the top of a very good Oakleigh side in the latter stages.

The visitors probably shaded the first half but chances were at a premium. The first real opportunity came in the 15th minute when Ivo Madeira beat two men on the right wing and got over a fine near post cross, which was met by Cameron Jones but Cagalj in the Oakleigh goal pulled off a fine save.



Too often, the final ball from Knox lacked penetration and Cagalj was able to deal with the crosses that came his way. At the other end, the Knox defence, ably led by Anthony Edgar was able to contain the lively Oakleigh forwards and the first half ended scoreless.

Oakleigh started faster in the second half and Val Philippe in the Knox goal was called upon to make a fine one on one save from Harbis. At this stage, Knox was looking flat but they soon picked up the tempo and from then on they drove the visitors back with wave after wave of attack.



Both Nick Veljovic and Cameron Jones went close before a Brett Lavale header beat Cagalj comprehensively only for the ball to strike the inside of a post and somehow rebound to safety. Then Cagalj parried a long-range shot from Lavale. Marty O' Hare was quickest to the rebound but his centre across the face of goal was hacked clear before it could reach the incoming Andrew Asimakidis. Oakleigh looked dangerous on the break and Hinoporos made a great run only for Philippe to deny him.

By this stage, Knox was basically camped in the Oakleigh half but it appeared that time might run out on the game and their season. However, in the 87th minute their perseverance was finally rewarded. A long throw from Nick Veljovic was flicked on and the resultant shot was parried by Cagalj, only for O'Hare to pounce on the loose ball and drive it into the roof of the net for his first goal of the season.

Knox moves into second place with this win, whilst its promotion rivals play on Sunday. Regardless, next Sunday's game at Northcote still gives them everything to play for. The Premier League still beckons.



ROUND 22

KNOX CITY 2 vs NORTHCOTE CITY 0

14.09.03

Knox City won their way into the Premier League of Victoria on Sunday when they beat Northcote City 2-0 in atrocious conditions and then stay glued to a mobile phone as the Heidelberg - Western Suburbs match played out its final minutes before finishing in the perfect result, a 1-1 draw. Knox therefore pipped Heidelberg, with both on 44 points but Knox's vastly superior goal difference was enough to see them promoted.

Northcote had a player sent off after only 5 minutes when Cameron Jones, who was clear through on goal, was tripped from behind just outside the penalty area. With Knox wasting the resultant free kick, the ten men of Northcote lifted and Knox's players thought that the battle over, with the result that Knox created virtually nothing in the first half. Constantly trying to hit killer forty metre passes and by passing the midfield, they made life easy for the Northcote defence.

After a roasting from Coach, Andy Humble at half time and playing with a strong wind, things improved after the break. Chances started to come Knox's way almost immediately and ten minutes into the half, Anthony Edgar volleyed a cross from Nick Veljovic home.

Cameron Jones then raced clear of the Northcote defence and lobbed the keeper only to see the ball just clear the bar. By this time the weather had turned feral as rain and hail drove down, making conditions extremely difficult. Knox kept plugging away looking for the vital second goal to make the game safe. It finally came with 15 minutes left when the Northcote defence failed to clear a corner and Brett Lavale drove the ball home from 8 metres out.

Knox saw out the remainder of the game, not too convincingly at times before the agonising wait for the final whistle at Heidelberg and then the celebrations started and continued long into the night.

Ten wins and two draws from the last twelve games created an irresistible force that was not to be denied. It was a far cry from the opening two games of the season, when it looked like being a very long season after a dismal performance at Fitzroy followed by a scrambling draw at home to Thomastown.



FINAL WRAP

BY A.HUMBLE

Well, what a finish!!?? "Two words... Premier League!" That's been the cry around the club of late and deservedly so. What a great finish to what was already a great year.

As I said in my first post the main aim this year was to better our finish of last season. We had already done that with seven games to go, so as far as I was concerned whatever we got after that point was a bonus. But once the Premier league was in sight and we kept pulling up great results the agenda did change, albeit in the HOPE that we might just pull it off. I must admit, even at the start of the last game I was planning for life in the first division again, but still believed that we would do what we needed to do to have the chance to go through. Its difficult when it's not in your hands, all you can do is concentrate on what your doing and hope someone does you a favour. We did that and it worked for us, on another day it may not have!

It was a massive effort in the last twelve games. To win ten and draw two deserves something. But the pleasing thing is the boys never once shirked responsibility and the attitude throughout was nothing short of superb. We kept the pressure on the lads to just keep getting our results and, with the pressure of promotion being non existent, it would have been a lot easier to play for Knox than for Heidelberg or Western Suburbs, where I'm sure the pressure would have been on to get promotion. Our main aim was to stay as close as possible to the pack and try and take it down to the wire. Although we did treat the last ten or so games as finals, knowing if we did lose we would drop out of the race.

All players involved deserve a massive pat on the back for their efforts over the season, and I have tried to give a run down of each player and their contribution to promotion on a separate page, which will be posted soon. Watch out Macca!

Also congratulations to the Reserves for winning the League this year, and with some ease as well. Eight points is pretty big in any league. I have sung the praises of Chas and the young boys all year and I must say they thoroughly deserve to be champions. They played some great soccer and also played with a great team spirit. Well done to Chas and all the young boys on a well deserved Championship. Another one for Charlie's collection.

On a sad note though, (there's always one!!) Charlie Vlad has decided enough is enough and has hung up the stopwatch and whistle. I know the decision Chas made was not made lightly because I know the passion he feels for the Club and his young boys. I want to thank Charlie for being a massive support to me, and the assistant coaches I have had over the six years I've been there. Charlie has been brilliant in his job and his help, especially in doing the little things that make a big difference, has been second to none. Nothing was ever too hard for Charlie and he was always ready to do his bit for the cause. All the best mate.

It goes without saying that the Reserves job is now available. Please contact the club if you are interested. Simsy... not sure about the kebab mate!!!

A big thank you for the support that was generated for the last half of the season, which was nothing short of sensational. I have never seen support like that at any Knox City game - it was truly magnificent. Thanks to all those that came along and supported throughout the year, you are part of the success story that is Knox City this year, and I hope you will all be there to cheer us on in the Premier League.

Preseason will start on the 30th October. All interested players are welcomed down with open arms. Please contact the club before hand.

Knox City juniors, especially this year's U18's and U16's super league teams are expected down. Don't wait till after Christmas because it will be too late!

TWO WORDS!!!



SENIOR COACH
Andy Humble

RESULTS - 2003

ROUND	DATE	MATCH	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
1	6.4.03	KNOX Vs Fitzroy	Firsts	0 - 2	
			Reserves	3 - 1	Orr
2	12.4.03	KNOX Vs Thomastown	Firsts	2 - 2	Edgar*2
			Reserves	1 - 1	Hale
3	26.4.03	KNOX Vs Nth Coburg	Firsts	1 - 4	N.Veljovic*2 Maderia Doughty
			Reserves	2 - 5	Orr*3 A.Ventieri L.Ventieri
4	3.5.03	KNOX Vs Westvale	Firsts	5 - 2	Maderia Edgar Jones Asimakidis N.Veljovic
			Reserves	2 - 0	Morley Treadwell
5	10.5.03	KNOX Vs Dandenong	Firsts	1 - 0	N.Veljovic
			Reserves	2 - 2	Treadwell*2
6	18.5.03	KNOX Vs Albion	Firsts	0 - 2	Jones Kerr
			Reserves	1 - 2	P.Veljovic Treadwell
7	24.5.03	KNOX Vs West. Subs	Firsts	1 - 1	Maderia
			Reserves	4 - 1	P.Veljovic*2 Doughty L.Ventieri
8	31.5.03	KNOX Vs Kingston	Firsts	0 - 0	
			Reserves	1 - 6	T.B.A
9	7.6.03	KNOX Vs Heidelberg	Firsts	2 - 3	Jones Asimakidis
			Reserves	0 - 1	
10	13.6.03	KNOX Vs Oakleigh	Firsts	2 - 1	Jones
			Reserves	2 - 3	T.B.A
11	21.6.03	KNOX Vs Northcote	Firsts	3 - 0	Jones N.Veljovic*2
			Reserves	2 - 1	T.B.A
12	28.6.03	KNOX Vs Fitzroy	Firsts	3 - 0	Jones Edgar N.Veljovic
			Reserves	3 - 2	T.B.A
13	6.7.03	KNOX Vs Thomastown	Firsts	0 - 2	Kerr Asimakidis
			Reserves	2 - 2	Doughty Bouios
14	12.7.03	KNOX Vs Nth Coburg	Firsts	1 - 0	Jones
			Reserves	3 - 0	Roper Doughty Orr
15	19.7.03	KNOX Vs Westvale	Firsts	1 - 4	Kerr N.Veljovic Jones Edgar
			Reserves	1 - 3	Roper*2 P.Veljovic
16	26.7.03	KNOX Vs Dandenong	Firsts	3 - 4	Lavale Jones N.Veljovic*2
			Reserves	2 - 5	T.B.A
17	2.8.03	KNOX Vs Albion	Firsts	3 - 0	Jones N.Veljovic*2
			Reserves	2 - 0	Bouios Treadwell
18	10.8.03	KNOX Vs West. Subs	Firsts	0 - 0	
			Reserves	0 - 3	Treadwell*3
19	16.8.03	KNOX Vs Kingston	Firsts	1 - 1	N.Veljovic
			Reserves	2 - 2	T.B.A
20	31.8.03	KNOX Vs Heidelberg	Firsts	0 - 1	Asimakidis
			Reserves	0 - 3	Treadwell Roper T.B.A
21	6.9.03	KNOX Vs Oakleigh	Firsts	1 - 0	O'Hare
			Reserves	6 - 0	T.B.A
22	14.9.03	KNOX Vs Northcote	Firsts	0 - 2	Edgar Lavale
			Reserves	0 - 0	

MERCHANDISE – 2003

Knox City merchandise was available for the hard-core fans, items also for sale included, caps and stubby holders.



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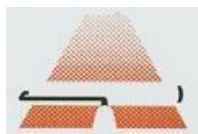
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Match Reports by Bruce Darnell.

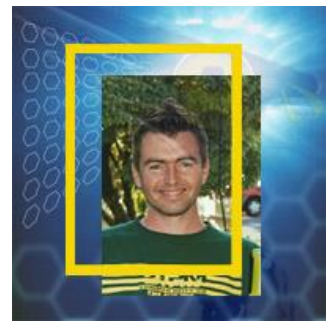
Humble's Crumble [Senior coach updates] by Andy Humble.

Photography by Conor O'Hare and Benton Jacobs.

President's address by Cor Teeuw.

Special feature articles by Conor O'Hare and Damian Everetts.

Designed and created by –



CONOR O'HARE.

Presented to Knox City Soccer Club on Presentation Night,
October 4, 2003.

- By the first Official Web-Team -

CONOR O'HARE
DAMIAN EVERETTS
BENTON JACOBS